United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea SPLOS/L.22

Meeting of States Parties

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Draft decision regarding the date of commencement of the ten-year period for making submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf set out in article 4 of Annex II to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

The States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Recalling the responsibility of all States Parties to fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them under the Convention,

Recalling also that the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf were elected in March 1997 and that the Commission commenced its work as from 16 June 1997,

Recalling further that the first task before the Commission was to complete its organizational work,

Noting that it was only after the adoption by the Commission of its Scientific and Technical Guidelines on 13 May 1999 that States had before them the basic documents concerning submissions in accordance with article 76, paragraph 8, of the Convention,

Considering the problems encountered by States Parties, in particular developing countries, including small island developing States, in complying with the time limit set out in article 4 of Annex II to the Convention,

Decides that:

(a) In the case of a State Party for which the Convention entered into force before 13 May 1999, it is understood that the ten-year time period referred to in article 4 of Annex II to the Convention shall be taken to have commenced on 13 May 1999;

(b) The general issue of the ability of States, particularly developing States, to fulfil the requirements of article 4 of Annex II to the Convention be kept under review.

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